

Cave Hill Cemetery
701 Baxter Avenue, at the intersection of
Broadway and Cherokee Rd.
Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-142

HABS,
KY,
56-LOUVI.
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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
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56-LOUVI,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAVE HILL CEMETERY

HABS No. KY-142

Location: 701 Baxter Avenue, at the intersection of Broadway and Cherokee Road, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Present Owner and Occupant: Cave Hill Cemetery.

Present Use: Cemetery.

Significance: Designed in 1848 as a rural cemetery, Cave Hill Cemetery has been developed as a full expression of Romantic landscape design. Second only to Arnold Arboretum in number and variety of botanic specimens, the 300-acre cemetery also contains approximately 50,000 monuments, many of unusual design. The cemetery also boasts excellent buildings of various functions in Renaissance Revival, Gothic Revival and Beaux Arts styles.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Opened in 1848, the cemetery has been continuously developed through the present time. The street and alley plan of the original design has been completed and additional streets designed after the original scheme have been and are being developed in the newer portions of the cemetery.
2. Architect: David Ross (1848-1856). After the death of David Ross his brother, Robert Ross, served as superintendent until his death in 1890. Under the Rosses the original scheme was completed. David Ross was a Scotsman who studied under Loudon and after emigrating to America, devoted his life to the development of Cave Hill Cemetery, as did his brother. Robert Campbell was appointed superintendent following the death of Robert Ross.
3. Land acquisitions: Cave Hill Cemetery is located on lot 3 of Block 68-L in the city of Louisville. The following references tracing the acquisition of the land for Cave Hill Cemetery are found in the Jefferson County, Kentucky Deed Books.

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Grantor	Date	Acreage	Deed Book	Page
City of Louisville.....	6-1-1848.....	47.6.....	70.....	306
William Pettet.....	12-12-1848.....	12.....	109.....	298
City of Louisville.....	3-24-1859.....	32.....	104.....	257
George L. Douglass.....	7-25-1863.....	49.05.....	115.....	236
City of Louisville.....	4-11-1865.....	1.45.....	122.....	16,17
H.J. Craycoft.....	12-5-1868.....	8.9.....	140.....	520
Richard C. Anderson.....	1-4-1871.....	38.5.....	152.....	568,569
Henning and Speed.....	5-26-1873.....	8.254.....	171.....	523
Henning and Speed.....	7-20-1880.....	46.....	235.....	183
Nannie M. Wilson.....	5-21-1889.....	13.414.....	332.....	386
Thomas James.....	5-12-1891.....	*.....	366.....	325
Nannie M. Wilson.....	7-11-1901.....	16.9.....	559.....	52
John H. Fulton, et al....	7-12-1901.....	*.....	555.....	553
Anabra W. Clark.....	7-15-1901.....	*.....	556.....	545
City of Louisville.....	12-31-1906.....	1.9.....	653.....	337
City of Louisville.....	9-20-1916.....	4.21.....	859.....	502

*less than one acre

Following the Civil War a section of the cemetery became a National Cemetery. The Federal government purchased 42,114 square feet of ground to bury soldiers from both sides.

In June of 1933 Cave Hill Cemetery transferred three parcels of ground, all less than one acre, to the City of Louisville by deeds recorded in Deed Books 1526, page 184; 1527, page 180; and 1530, page 560.

4. Alterations and additions: A new receiving vault, designed by architect Henry Whitestone, was constructed in 1856-66 for \$13,000. In 1876 a new lodge and a gateway were built, which were derived from the plans of architect Charles Shryock.

By 1895 numerous improvements had been made on the grounds. Approximately 1,200 feet of water pipe, 6 wagon hydrants and 45 self-closing hydrants were installed and supplied by the City Water Company. The roads within the cemetery were paved with gravel with macadam underneath. A 3-acre, spring-fed lake was improved at the cost of \$27,000. 150 trees and shrubs, including 12 varieties of magnolia, 3 varieties of Japanese maple, a Japanese Gingko tree, Japanese shrubs, and cypress, willow and cedar trees, had been planted.

The present state of the cemetery and the layout of the eastern end of the cemetery is attributed to Ira Mitchell, who was superintendent of the cemetery from 1938 to 1974. Also under his superintendence the chapel and the 1865-66 receiving vault were removed.

- B. Historical Context: The dedication of the cemetery took place on July 25, 1848. Featured was an opening ode sung by a choir and written by Fortunatus Cosby, a noted local poet. The principal address was delivered by Rev. E. P. Humphrey, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville.

During the 19th century the pesthouse, one of the buildings in the cemetery, was used as an infirmary for persons with contagious diseases.

Cave Hill Cemetery contains the remains of virtually every prominent Louisvillian, many prominent Kentuckians, and a number of notable Southerners. Most notably, it contains the grave of George Rogers Clark.

The exclusivity of the cemetery has diminished but little. At one time regulations were maintained as to the types of plantings allowed, the types of people allowed in certain areas, the size of markers, and admission was regulated by a ticket system. On weekends tours by carriage began from the office and picnickers were invited to eat by the numerous lakes and lily ponds.

A mass grave was dug in 1937 for victims of the flood, but fortunately was not needed.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Map, circa 1903, at the Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.

Deed Books in County Clerk's Office, Jefferson County Courthouse.

Minutes Book. June 16, 1895.

Report of the Committee. "Cave Hill Scrapbook."

2. Secondary and published sources:

Rules and Regulations and an Historical Sketch of Cave Hill Cemetery with the Dedicatory Address. Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton and Company, 1868.

Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws of Cave Hill Cemetery with the Dedicatory Address and Topographical and Descriptive Notices. Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton and Co., 1869.

Cave Hill Cemetery-Charter, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of
Cave Hill Cemetery and Charter of Cave Hill Investment Co.
Louisville, Kentucky: Courier-Journal Publishing Company, 1901.

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and Charter of Cave Hill Investment Co. Louisville, Kentucky:
Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1915.

Rules and Regulations Cave Hill Cemetery Co. Inc. 1848.
Louisville, Kentucky, January 1, 1927.

The Courier-Journal. Newspaper articles. "Robert Alexander
Campbell", August 7, 1938; "Brushing Up on the Past at Cave Hill",
September 6, 1973.

The Louisville Times. Newspaper articles. Louisville, Kentucky.
"Unusual Tombstones Found in Louisville", by David W. Hacker,
April 26, 1927; "In Cave Hill's Everchanging Beauty and Harmony",
by Melville O. Briney, February 5, 1953; "Johnny
All-Kinds-of-Seed", November 22, 1969.

Louisville Magazine. Magazine article. "Cave Hill -- An
Ecologist's Dream", by Robert McDowell.

The Modern Cemetery. "Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, KY."
October 1892, pp. 88-89.

The Highlander. Newspaper article. "Cave Hill", by Lewis A.
Walter, September 10, 1928.

Louisville Gas and Electric Company. "Cave Hill Cemetery,
Chartered 120 Years Ago, A Unique Botanical Garden and Wildfowl
Haven". June 1968, Vol. 23, no. 7.

Prepared by: David Arbogast
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
August 1974.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County, Inc. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1974 at the HABS Field Office in Louisville by Prof. John Haggard, (Syracuse University), Project Supervisor; David Arbogast (Columbia University), Project Historian; Mary Oehrlein, Project Foreman; Bayer Lee (City College of New York), Architect; and Mary M. Herd (University of Tennessee) and Charles Raith (University of Cincinnati), student assistant architects. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written descriptive data in the spring of 1981, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher took the photographs of the structures in 1979.